

PRESIDENT: Senator Fenger.

SENATOR FENGER: Thank you, Mr. President. I can't support LR 57 in its present form either. I still have to ask the same question of myself and this body that I asked last week. Does anyone on this floor, voting on this issue, have any knowledge or enough knowledge of the current status of military preparedness that is going to enable you to decide whether or not this proposal will, in fact, ease the dangers and the perils that frankly we all envision? As I said, I think it is one thing that well-intended people congregate together in the streets of this country and voice their concerns about the dangers of the future but to ask this deliberative body to accept any words and to approve this concept without any of the input that we should have is unwise, unfair and even unrealistic. Some of the senators on this floor have had the privilege of some declassified briefings and anyone who believes that this supposed signal that we are sending will ease world tensions is misinformed. It will, in fact, perpetuate the very real threat of Soviet domination. Before we enter into any immediate freeze, we've got some catching up to do. Remember now, that our negotiating experience with Soviets up to now has not been successful. Either we have sent peace at any price advocates to the bargaining table or honest, sincere people have had their own position weakened and our position weakened by proposals similar to what we are looking at today. SALT I talks, if you remember, were a fiasco. You don't have to be as old as I am to remember those. They allowed the Soviets time to reach a parity with us in nuclear technology and nuclear hardware. The Soviet throwaway capability between SALT I and SALT II increased 44%. Ours jokingly increased 7%. I would remind you also that the SALT II Treaty was so darned concessionary that even the Congress, and they are not a bunch of hawks I might remind you, haven't ratified it yet. In conclusion, any proposal of this magnitude that calls on our federal government to take this kind of action that is based, not on facts and data, but on emotion, should not reach the approval of this body. I urge a resounding no on this resolution so that we can get back to addressing the pressing state problems that we were sent here for. Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely. Senator Hefner asked for recognition. Is he here? The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands and the question is, shall the debate cease. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. The issue before the House is the question of whether the debate shall cease or not on LR 57. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record.